

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00002 091907 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 091432 Z APR 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0002

C O N F I D E N T I A L USLO PEKING 0002

EXDIS

EC 11652 GDS

TAGS AFSP

SUBJECT OFFICE AND RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS

1. ON APRIL 6 BLACKBURN AND FREEMAN CALLED ON LIU CHING KUO, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SECTION OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICES BUREAU (DSB) WHILE I WAS AT MFA. ON APRIL 17 THREE OF US CALLED ON HSU HUANG, DIRECTOR DSB WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LIU AND CHIH SUNGPO, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL SECTION.
 2. DSB IS OFFERING USLO TOTAL OF 14 ESSENTIALLY RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN SAN LI TUN AND CHIEN KUO MEN WAI DIPLOMATIC AREAS. DSB SUGGESTS THAT FOUR OF UNITS IN " NINE STORY BUILDING" IN SAN LI TUN COULD SERVE AS OFFICE SPACE AND QUARTERS FOR " SENIOR PERSONNEL. "
 3. AT BOTH MEETINGS OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED THAT EXPANSION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS DURING PAST TWO YEARS PLACES HEAVY PRESSURE ON AVAILABLE FACILITIES AND CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT NUMBER OF UNITS WAS BEST AND MOST THEY COULD PROVIDE AT THIS TIME. (LIU SAID AT FIRST MEETING THAT NO MORE UNITS WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR AND THAT ONLY FEW MORE WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING LAST HALF OF YEAR.)
 4. DSB EMPHASIZED THAT UNITS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED " TEMPORARY" (TRANSLATE" MANY INDETERMINATE MONTHS" IN PAST PRACTICE)
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AND POINTED OUT THAT MANY EMBASSIES PREFERRED TO LOCATE IN THEIR OWN COMPOUND, NUMBER OF WHICH ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. WE COULD ELICIT NO INFORMATION ON WHICH COMPOUND USLO MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE ASSIGNED, WHEN IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE OR WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED.

5. AT BOTH MEETINGS WE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF PROBLEMS FACING CHINESE. WE ALSO NOTED THAT PROPOSED USLO STAFFING PATTERN APPROVED BY PRC OFFICIALS SEMI: AND AFTER INSPECTING QUARTERS SENT CLEAR SIGNALS THAT WHILE UNITS THEMSELVES ARE VERY SATISFACTORY FOR RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS, THE PRESENT NUMBER OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IF USED AS OFFICE QUARTERS. CHINESE OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT NUMBER OF UNITS IS INSUFFICIENT.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT CALL APRIL 7 ON LIN PING, ACTING DIRECTOR AMERICAN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT AT MFA, I NOTED WE WOULD HAVE CERTAIN PROBLEMS UTILIZING UNITS OFFERED AS OFFICE SPACE, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING POWER AND COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS. I SAID I REALIZED THAT DSB IS USUAL POINT OF CONTACT ON SUCH MATTERS, BUT THAT AT THIS INITIAL STAGE CERTAIN SEEMINGLY MUNDANE DECISIONS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, HENCE I RAISING MATTER WITH HIS OFFICE.

7. LIN REQUESTED MEMORANDUM OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WE WILL PROVIDE, AND SAID THAT MATTER WILL BE STUDIED.

8. I ALSO NOTED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO MEET MAY 1 TARGET DATE FOR OPENING USLO UNLESS AIRLIFT AUTHORIZED. LIN REPORTED THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH PROTOCOL AND OTHER CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS AND SAID THAT CHINESE WISHED EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE FACILITIES.

9. COMMENT: ALL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CORDIAL PRMZN NORMAL CHINESE PRACTICE INITIAL CALLS EVEN ON OLD FRIENDS WOULD HAVE INVOLVED ONLY PLEASANTRIES WITH NO BUSINESS, SINCE I AM PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED. HOWEVER OFFICE QUARTERS PROFFERED PRESENT INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES UNLESS WE DOWNGRADE COMMUNICATION PLANS, SO FELT I HAD TO PLANT SOME SEEDS. I AM NOT SANGUINE RE CHINESE GESTATION PERIOD, BUT SENIOR LEVELS WILL UNDERSTAND PROBLEM AND I BELIEVE CAN MEET OUR NEED IF THEY STRAIN. THEIR PROBLEM IS "EQUITABLE TREATMENT" BUT THE WILL HAVE TO DECIDE HOW EFFECTIVELY AND ON CONFIDENTIAL

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WHAT SCALE THEY WANT TO ENABLE US TO OPERATE.

LACK OF HOUSING FOR ABOUT HALF OUR PROPOSED STAFF IS TROUBLING
BUT STANDARD HERE. EXTENDED STAY AT PEKING HOTEL WILL
NOT BE JOYOUS (EXCEPT GUSTATORIALLY) FOR ANYONE. WHILE
BEING FRANK RE OFFICE PROBLEM WE HAVE EXPRESSED FULL UNDER-
STANDING CHINESE DIFFICULTIES AND APPRECIATION THEIR
EFFORTS. ATTITUDE BOTH SIDES SEEMS TO BE THAT WE HAVE SOLVED
PROBLEMS TOGETHER BEFORE AND BOTH INTERESTED IN KEEPING THAT
BATTING AVERAGE RESPECTABLE.

10. DETAILS OF 14 UNITS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
SIGNED JENKINS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING00002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730437/aaaahycd.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971212
Subject: OFFICE AND RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS
TAGS: AFSP, CH, AFSP
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005